INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internal Application No PCT/IB2004/052264

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01N23/20 G01N23/201 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 GO1N A61B G21K Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category * Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 3 936 638 A (GIBBONS ET AL) 1-17 3 February 1976 (1976-02-03) the whole document X US 5 696 806 A (GRODZINS ET AL) 1,8,11, 9 December 1997 (1997-12-09) column 1, line 27 - line 61 column 2, line 29 - line 39 column 5, line 50 - line 59; figures 1,3 A DE 37 12 928 A1 (PHILIPS PATENTVERWALTUNG 1-17 GMBH) 3 November 1988 (1988-11-03) column 1, line 55 - line 66 column 3, line 37 - line 49 column 4, line 4 - line 20 column 5, line 33 - line 36; figures 1,3 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such docuother means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled *P* document published prior to the international filing date but In the art. tater than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the International search Date of mailing of the international search report 4 February 2005 15/02/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Wulveryck, J-M Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

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